

Enhancing students' pride and success through  
traditional Okanagan and Similkameen people's ways of learning.



**Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting**

**May 13, 2014 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

**USIB Band Office, Hedley**

**Present:**

**AEAC Members:**

Kalie Gabriel-Baptiste, Jr. Rep SOSS

Darlene Melgar, Sr. Rep SOSS

David Foster, Administrator TEN

Mike Safek, Administrator OSS

Tyla Parker, Sim. Ancestry Parent rep.

Freda Prince, LSIB Education Coordinator

Myrna Coates, School Trustee

Jim Insley, Assistant Superintendent, Chair

Alec Rouseau, Sr. Rep SESS

Colleen Baptiste, OIB Parent rep

Helen Gallagher, Dist. Teacher for Aboriginal Education

Lindsay Anderson, OIB Education Alternate

Charlotte Mitchell, USIB Education Coordinator

**Guests:**

Michael Reid, OKF Support worker

Sandy Terbasket, SESS Support worker

Karlie McCarthy, OSS/OSE Support worker

Scott Tremblay, Administrator (VP) SESS

Raylene Baptiste, SOSS Support worker

Gary Parker, Parent

Lynn Couch-Alaric, TEN Support worker

Les Louis, SESS Support worker

Sonya Jensen, SOSS Support worker

Samantha Marsel, OES Support worker

Marty Marchand-Ring, CPS Support worker

**Regrets:** Nancy Allison – USIB Parent rep., Mona Bent – OIB Education Coordinator,

1. Welcome: Charlotte Mitchell
2. Opening Prayer: Helen Gallagher
3. Introductions
4. Comments on Mission statement – To be interpreted by September
5. Updates on various projects and news:
  - a. **Sandy Terbasket, Water Project:** Four communities were involved in this project from different regions in Canada. The students learned about the water cycle and issues in each of the communities involved. SESS students did their water presentation to four classes at SESS. They had presented with a traditional story and the IFF culture. They learned how to do digital stories, learned how to write proposals and they are close to completion. There is going to be a community gathering on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cawston Hall to celebrate the project and its completion.
  - b. **Alex Rouseau – Archery:** Alex won gold at the 3D National Tournament. He is also going to the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) this summer in Manitoba.
  - c. **Kali Gabriel-Baptiste – Japan:** Kali wrote an essay to win selection to be part of the student exchange with Oliver's sister city, Bandai, Japan. She was selected out of 17 students. She is the only Aboriginal student going this round.

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6. Annual District Aboriginal Report was distributed electronically. If you prefer a color copy, let Jim or Helen know and one will be provided.
7. **Aboriginal Teacher Update:**
  - a. Cultural Awareness – Dave and I have been talking about how we would like to present it to teachers. Sorry, we've talked but no action was taken. Can we still offer it and when? Do we offer during summer Pro-d? Or should it be offered on the October PD day? We talked about the history portion needing to have photos and a time-line or a format of some kind. For the residential school, we might have a panel of survivors and parents who were impacted by it. For celebrating the knowledge keepers, we could have a session with Leon on protocols around gatherings and community events, i.e., funerals, hunting camps, berry picking, etc.
  - b. Okanagan Days – next year I will start working with Linda Thiel and Marty to host Okanagan Days at CPS, if they are interested. If not interested, may hold at SESS.
  - c. Residential School Workshop (First Nations Education Steering Committee) – The Residential Schools and Reconciliation curriculum was developed for grades 5 and 10 and is being piloted in 3 districts. FNEESC will be looking for feedback on the resource and once that is completed, they will revise and have it available for everyone. (Natasha Schroeter is using some of the ideas in her classes at OSS.)
  - d. Circle of Life Book Series – Four elementary schools ordered the books and are very happy with them. They find they are very useful for extending cultural lessons. And with the support of our support workers, the students will not only enjoy the books but understand some of the cultural protocols. (The council expressed the concept of looking for books/stories for the intermediate years.)
  - e. Pow wow – although we didn't have the numbers we were hoping for, it was still a success. The students (over 700) enjoyed the contests we had for them. We're looking at revisiting the hot dogs for all the schools, as it is getting to be a bit much. Next year, Osoyoos Secondary will be the host on April 17 and 18, 2015.
  - f. Parent Night – SOSS hosted their second Parent Night and had past graduates in to share their post-secondary experiences with our students. It was a good eye-opener for the students because one of our grads talked about being on academic probation and how it affected them. Also Okanagan College recruiter Marcy Trotter and SOSS school counsellor and career teacher Rod Kitt presented on qualifications and programming. OIB education worker Mona Bent attended and introduced herself as the interim education director.
  - g. Aboriginal Graduation – June 17th at SESS, elementary side. We're still trying to get it moved to secondary side because of dinner location (now done!). The banner was approved by everyone. Larry Hunter, our artist, sent it to Neon Signs and it will be ready for our grad. The cost for the banner at is \$147.55.
8. **The salmon Fry** release date was changed to May 21 due to the deaths in two of our communities.
9. **Co-chairs for 2014-2015.** Jim suggested that an administrator and another member of the committee take over the meetings next year. They'll be working with Helen. She will continue to do the minutes for all meetings.
10. **District Budget Advisory** meeting soon. Lindsay Anderson will represent the AEAC at the meeting.

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11. **Action Goals for 2014/15** We broke into groups to do a “Stop-Start- Continue” and report back at the end (see lists that follow with votes totaled in front). Although these will need to be confirmed in September and after combining common themes of those that got votes, the following are suggestions:
  - a. Develop a strategy to have Okanagan language in every School District No. 53 school.
  - b. Professional development for support workers to enhance their ability to deliver Okanagan/Similkameen cultural learning. May include:
    - i. Training in language, singing, drumming, story-telling, traditional games, and traditional crafts (beading, tanning, gathering, drying salmon, rattle making, etc.) A grade by grade scope and sequence may work well to ensure all students get a well-rounded program, specific to integration into other curriculums.
    - ii. Sharing with other districts’ people. Through a one day gathering or visitations.
    - iii. Sharing skills with other support workers
  - c. Create a better ‘feeling of belonging’ at the high school level, with particular emphasis on inclusion of non-band native and Metis students.
  - d. Build on Aboriginal resources and curriculum content, including:
    - i. District-wide purchases of resources, i.e., primary reading resources.
    - ii. Implement FNEC residential school curriculum units at grade 5 and 10
    - iii. A champion for FN Studies 12 and First People’s English Language Arts.
  - e. Have an Aboriginal Grad trip.
  
12. **Aboriginal Budget for 2014-2015: was approved as presented. May be some adjustments in September.** (Aboriginal teacher and support workers were asked to leave for this portion of meeting.)
  
13. Meeting adjourned @ 3:10. Next meeting will be in September 2014 in Oliver at the SBO.

## **Stop, Continue and Start Session**

### **Stop**

- 1\* 1) Less focus on numbers/statistics and more on one to one assessment of District programs.
- 2) Hot dogs at Pow wow.

### **Continue**

- 2\* 1) Parent involvement- Welcome to \_\_\_\_-school @ beginning of year. Introduce Aboriginal program and have a wind up at year end.
- 2\* 2) Learning from Elders, speakers, crafts, stories, development of skills for support workers,
- 1\* 3) Cultural Awareness
- 1\* 4) Transition visits to high school, more than one visit. "Hands on Experience"
- 1\* 5) Aboriginal content in school libraries and promote with teachers
- 0\* 6) Cultural activities: drumming and singing, language
- 7) R' Native Voice
- 8) Pow wow
- 9) Okanagan –Similkameen Days (rotating)
- 10) Aboriginal Grad
- 11) Relationship building with the three bands
- 12) Language and culture
- 13) Grade 4 curriculum
- 14) Okanagan song- begin all assemblies
- 15) Aboriginal partnership meetings
- 16) First Nations curriculum (expand)
- 17) One-to-one support for at-risk students
- 18) Strong pre-school start
- 19) Building resources
- 20) Workshops on cultural awareness
- 21) Salmon cycle (Fry Program)
- 22) Rededication of the Four Food Chief flags to the school

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**Start**

- 8\*** 1) Training for support workers (sharing) i.e., language, crafts, drumming and singing, stories, moccasin making, rattle making, beading, traditional activities such as tanning, gathering, drying salmon and venison, making pemmican and games.
- 8\*** 2) Support workers- sharing with other districts
- 7\*** 3) Feeling of belonging at high school level, students and parents , inclusion of urban natives and Metis students.
- 7\*** 4) Curricular delivery new resources, colonialism training for teachers, out with old in with new, principals job to oversee application in classrooms.  
0\* - district-wide Aboriginal books/Welcome to Kg. packs
- 7\*** 5) Develop strategy to have Okanagan language in every SD# 53 school.
- 7\*** 6) Aboriginal Grad trip.
- 3\*** 7)Develop a GOOD language program.  
0\*- Communication between language instructors
- 3\*** 8) Leadership transition for AEAC (Not an option – A MUST)
- 2\*** 9) Hunting camps
- 2\*** 10) Re-assess support worker program/work (role?)  
0\* - More support worker meetings/stronger program/planning (education)
- 2\*** 11) Traditional games – district wide
- 1\*** 12) Language curriculum progression
- 1\*** 13) Parent night with door prizes / course selection and options/ beginning of year  
0\* - Parent night at other schools , band involvement, contact education coordinator.
- 1\*** 14) Cultural awareness for teachers annually, Grades 5 and 10 curriculum
- 1\*** 15) Ways to reach boys ...male mentors/ Elders Program
  
- 0\*** 16) Promote Aboriginal parents for Roots of Empathy Program.
- 0\*** 17) Close assessment – student development
- 0\*** 18) Awareness of community events